

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2002/07/12 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000600280001-4

TOPIC Military Information from Perleberg

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EVALUATION [] PLACE OBTAINED [] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 23 December 1952 to 16 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 18 February 1953

REFERENCES [] 25X1C

PAGES 25X1A ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - a sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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CLASSIFICATION

- From 8 to 15 January, the Artillerie Kaserne in Perleberg still quartered an estimated 1,700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The installation was occupied to capacity. At 1:30 p.m. on 16 January, T-34/85 tank [] and 12 platoons of 35 to 40 soldiers each entered the installation. Two of the platoons were equipped with heavy machine guns, while the other platoons carried five light machine guns and firing equipment each. [] An informant observed 116 x 76.2-mm field guns in the barracks yard at about 10 a.m. Source counted only 109 guns. He could not account for informant's observation [] At 7 a.m. on 12 January, T-34/85 tank [] and six groups of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets moved to the troop training grounds. At 12:30 p.m., troops practiced aiming at a T-34/85 tank in motion with a 76.2-mm field gun. Four groups of soldiers participated in this maneuver armed with heavy machine guns, while 2 groups of soldiers received instruction at the sand table and 5 other groups engaged in basic infantry training with rifles. [] A group of 1 officer and about 35 soldiers stood near an unidentified weapon as indicated on the sketch. A crew of 1 gunner and 4 men operated the gun, with 4 men tightening up the wheels that were fitted to the end of the 1.5-meter long trails and stabilizing the trails by putting plates into the space between the trails, thus, giving the gun a firm stand. After the gunner had mounted a seat provided for him and had operated levers and wheels which could not be seen, the base started revolving, while the four other soldiers took shells from a box and put them into the barrels from above. After five minutes of instruction by an officer, the gunner switched a lever, and a yellowish smoke emerged from the barrels. Source believed that practice ammunition had been used. At 7 a.m. on 15 January, T-34/85 tank No 335 moved out of the installation toward the troop training grounds. It was followed by eight platoons, each of about 35 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. At about 1 p.m., troops practiced with six 76.2-mm field guns and two other groups practiced at the sand table. []
- On 12 January, the Fliegerhorst was occupied to capacity. A man in charge of a warehouse said that 2,500 troops were quartered in the installation. Many groups of soldiers practiced with 14 tanks on the airfield terrain. []

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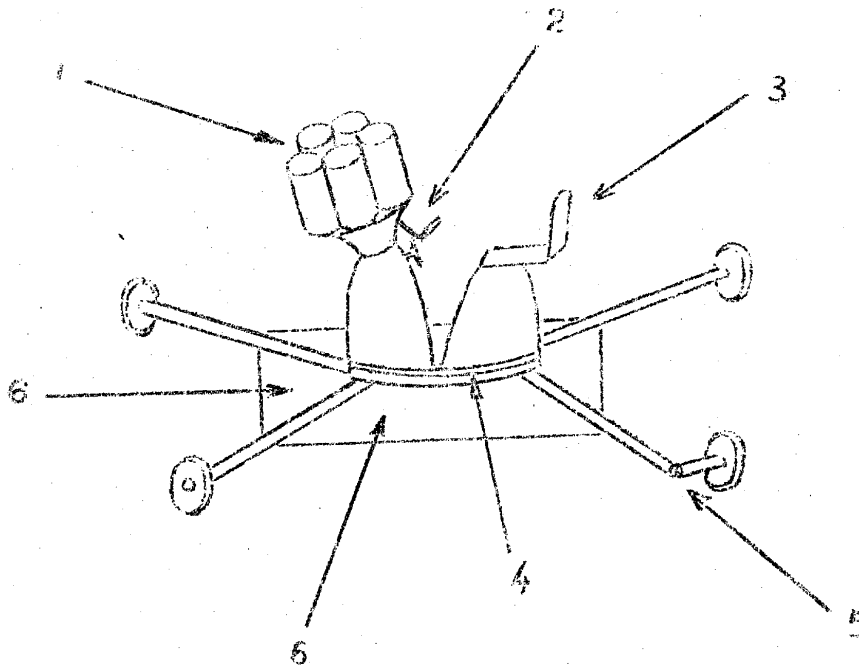
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3. From 23 to 31 December, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The barracks buildings were 80 percent lighted at nightfall. On 23 December, T-34 and T-34/85 tanks stood in the barracks yard. Motor vehicles in the billeting area.
- Comment. There are no changes discernible in the quartering of troops of the 18th Mecz Div in Perleberg since the last report. See . The high number of 76.2-mm field guns in the Artillerie Kaserne, which is about 10 times higher than can be carried with the 58th Mecz Regt of the 18th Mecz Div, cannot be accounted for. No information on the arrival of the guns by road or rail has been obtained, nor has there been information indicating the establishment of an ordnance depot in the barracks installation. Existence and purpose of the reported multi-barrel artillery piece are unknown. The type gun carriage is indicative of its use against air targets. However, this conclusion is discredited by the length of the barrel and the fact that no ballistic director was observed. It cannot be stated whether the weapon was a rocket launcher or a mortar. A multi-barrel artillery piece similar to a launcher weapon of the former German Army was previously reported from Bernau. . For sketch on the multi-barrel gun, see Annex.

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Multi-Barrel Gun Observed in the Artillerie Maserne,
Perleberg, in mid-January 1953



Legend:

- 1 Five barrels, each about 30 cm long and of 30 to 35 caliber
- 2 Lever and wheels
- 3 Seat for gunner
- 4 Circular track
- 5 Retractable wheels
- 6 Stabilization plates

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